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ART. I.-Geological Notes on Lake Connewarre, near Geelong.

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Introduction.

Lake Connewarre lies about 5 miles from the mouth of the Barwon River, in a tract of marshy land about 16 square miles in area. The locality is shown in the inset map A, which also shows the drainage basins of the Leigh, Moorabool, and Barwon rivers. The details of the lake are shown on the accompanying map, and from this it will be noted that, in addition to Lake Connewarre proper, there are numerous small lagoons and two larger bodies of water, Reedy Lake and Lake Murtnagurt. Reedy Lake contains fresh water, but all the others are brackish because tidal salt water reaches as far as the Lower Breakwater.

Two geological explanations suggest themselves for the origin of the lake; first, that local subsidence has occurred; secondly, that the basins were developed behind flows of basalt which entered the sea. The latter hypothesis was advanced by the author in 1933 (1), and further field work appears to confirm this view.

Evidence has been obtained from bores put down in the area by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. The Geelong Harbour Trust, Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust, Cheetham Salt Company, Barwon Heads Golf Club, and the Mines Department, supplemented by numerous shallow bores put down by the author. For this field work, a grant from the University of Melbourne was obtained, enabling the author to purchase a hand-drill made in five lengths of 10 feet each, and fitted with an auger head. Two men could sink this with ease through silt or loose sand, but sandy clay and tenacious marine clay could not be penetrated, nor could solid rocks, such as basalt. The tool served a useful purpose in locating basalt where it was covered by several feet of sediment, and in this way the geological features were mapped. The locations of all the bores are illustrated on the map, and the details of each are appended to this paper.

The author appreciates the generosity of the authorities mentioned in supplying information and assistance, and also the help rendered by Mr. E. R. Churches, of Campbell's Point, Lake Connewarre, and several friends who assisted with the boring.

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Geology.

Geological Quarter Sheet 29 N.W., prepared by Daintree in 1861, includes the Moolap and Connewarre parishes, and shows the outline of the lake as it appeared then. Reference to the author's map shows that there has been considerable siltation. the width having been reduced by 10 chains on the southern side. There has also been a reduction in depth, and the present depth of water in the middle of the lake is 4 feet, where formerly it was 7 feet. New mud flats and sand bars have appeared, and others are forming.

The geology of the portion now reclaimed, but shown as water on the Quarter Sheet, has been mapped by the author, using the boring tool to probe through the mud, and so ascertain the nature of the bottom. Fossils obtained at Fisherman's Point and Bald Hill enable the rocks there to be classed as Kalimnan (Lower Pliocene), whereas the Survey regarded them as "probably Miocene."

The order of succession of the geological formations is :--

Recent silt, sand, sandy clay, shell beds.

Pleistocene to Recent dune sandstone, travertine.

Newer Basalt.

Lower Pliocene sands, ironstone.

Lower Miocene marine clay.

LOWER MIOCENE CLAY.

A fossiliferous yellow clay, containing Lower Miocene fossils (2), outcrops a few feet above water level along the high northern and eastern banks of Lake Connewarre from Campbell's Point to Ocean Grove. The clay forms the bed of the lake, and slopes gradually to the south, being met with at 35 feet depth on Campbell's Flat in bores No. 59 and 60. It is not met at this depth in the Reedy Lake, as bores 6 and 7 passed through 51 feet and 63 feet respectively of Recent silt at the Lower Breakwater. This indicates that either (a) erosion of the Tertiary rocks, or (b) local subsidence, has taken place along the tract of low-lying land running from Reedy Lake to the Salt Works on Stingaree Bay (see inset map B), the eastern portion of Corio Bay. There is a relatively high bank on each side of this trough; on the west side it consists of the Newer Basalt of Geelong, and on the east side there is the Leopold-Fisherman's Point hill capped by Lower Phocene sands strongly resembling a fault escarpment. Probably the valley is due to local down-warping or trough-faulting of a narrow strip of land, about 3 miles wide and 6 miles long.

This feature is of importance, because it increases the complexity of the post-Miocene shoreline. Instead of a simple semicircular bay between Ocean Grove and Torquay, the inlet at that time was shaped like a funnel, with a channel connecting the sea with Stingaree Bay. One cannot be certain at what point the ancient Barwon entered this channel; possibly it did not do so until after the volcanic activity of Upper Pliocene or Lower Pleistocene times.

Regarding the Lower Miocene clays and limestones which extend from Belmont and Waurn Ponds to Torquay, recent excavations and the bores for the Geelong Sewer Outfall have revealed these rocks further east than the outcrops shown on the Quarter Sheet 28 N.E., often with only a thin capping of soil. Thus in section 1, allotments 15, 22, and 29, Parish of Connewarre, limestone and marl were encountered at depths down to 20 feet; in J. Armstrong's pre-emptive right, Parish of Puebla, where Armstrong's Creek crosses the Torquay-Geelong road, there is a marl-pit in Lower Miocene rock; and in allotment 24c, Parish of Puebla, about half a mile east of the Torquay road there is a marl-pit on Thompson's Creek. south bank, in which such forms as *Glycimeris gunyoungensis* Chap. & Sing., *Septifer fenestratus* Tate, *Cucullea corioensis* MeCoy, *Turritella murrayana* Tate, and *Scaphander tenuis* Harris can be found.

Thus it appears that the Miocene rocks are continuous underground throughout the area, and at a slight depth, except in the valley running north from Reedy Lake, where there was local erosion or subsidence. No general subsidence has occurred in the area since the post-Lower Pliocene uplift, and this fact is of importance in considering the origin of the lake basins.

LOWER PLIOCENE SANDS, IRONSTONE.

The Lower Pliocene rocks, which consist essentially of sand and grit partly cemented by iron oxides, immediately overlie the Lower Miocene clays, and practically surround the northern side of Lake Connewarre, attaining a thickness of 80 to 100 feet. They are barren of fossils except at Fisherman's Point, where, on the eastern projection near water level, the author located a band of calcarcous grit which yielded shells indentified by Miss Irene Crespin, B.A., as follow:—*Chlamys antiaustralis, C. sturtiana, Liopyrga quadricingulata, Nucula obliqua, and Ostrea* sp., the assemblage having a Kalimman (Lower Pliocene) aspect.

The comparative absence of fossils in this formation may be due to the coarse nature of the sediments, which are of shallow water origin, and to subsequent leaching. False bedding and irregular inducation are characteristic.

NEWER BASALT.

Mount Duneed, a hill 340 feet high, situated about 5 miles west of the lake, was the centre of extrusion of the olivine andesine basalt, which flowed towards the east and south. In the scoria pits on the summit of Mount Duneed, one ean see embedded in the scoria numerous ejected blocks of limestone eontaining Lower Miocene fossils, and oceasional masses of ferruginous sandstone, identical with those of Lower Pliocene age in the Connewarre district. The volcanie activity took place, on this evidence, in post-Lower Pliocene times. Along the coast from Barwon Heads to Bream Creek, the basalt is overlain by bedded dune sandstones of Pleistocene to sub-Recent age. The basalt may therefore be of any age from Upper Plioeene to sub-Recent,

A broad sheet of basalt extends eastwards from Mount Duneed to Lake Connewarre, where it divides into several tongues, as shown on the map (Fig. 1). The westerly tongue stretches from Tait's Point to Fisherman's Point, and has been breached by the Barwon to a depth of 35 feet below lake level. Another tongue, about 150 yards wide, extends from near Bald Hill, aeross the lake mouth at Sheoak Point, to the Peliean Rocks on the other side, a distance of 3 miles. At the lake mouth it is 15 feet below the surface of the water. The third and larger tougue extends eastwards along the southern coast to the Bluff at Barwon Heads, but is obseured in places by the overlying dune sandstone. At low tide it can be seen on the beach at the Bluff, at Black Roeks Sewer Outfall, and at a point half way between. The Ant Spit and Charlemont Reef, just off the eoast between the Bluff and Black Rocks, possibly represent portions of this flow. Near the Sheepwash, on the south bank of the channel between Lake Connewarre and Barwon Heads, there is basalt at 10 feet depth and about 100 yards wide (Bore No. 124). This does not appear to stretch across the channel, and is probably a northerly extension of the basalt of the Bluff. Probably basalt underlies all the higher land around Barwon Heads, and its eroded surface is covered with the dune sands and travertine of Pleistocene to Recent age.

No evidence is available as to what kind of rock underlies the basalt. Bore No. 138, near Bald Hill, passed through 64 feet of basalt without bottoming. Probably in the Connewarre area, as clsewhere in the Geelong district, the basalt rests on Lower Pliocene sands, which in turn overlie Lower Miocene marine rocks. In places, however, particularly under the tongnes, it is probable that the Lower Pliocene is absent owing to erosion.

PLEISTOCENE TO RECENT DUNE SANDSTONE, TRAVERTINE.

Remnants of the older bedded dune sandstones can be seen at intervals along the coast from Black Rocks eastward, but they are best exposed at the Bluff, where the seaward face rises abruptly to a height of 128 feet. This craggy headland shows three distinct angles of stratification, with dips to the north at various angles up to 40 deg. Between the beds of sandstone are several horizontal bands of a peculiar conglomerate, consisting of fragments of sandstone of black, grey, brown, and cream colours. The bands are only a few inches thick, but under each is several feet of travertine. Griffiths (3) stated that pebbles of basalt occur in the conglomerates, but the author has been unable to eonfirm this, despite prolonged search, and concludes that pebbles of black sandstone were erroneously regarded as basalt. Examination showed that all the pebbles in the conglomerate are of sandstone, the variation of colour being due to the different percentages of carbonaceous matter present.

It is suggested that the conglomerates were formed by the breaking up of the surface soil beds at different stages in the growth of the large dune. Atmospheric agents could easily accomplish this, and it is not therefore necessary to invoke marine action to explain the origin of the Bluff and the formation of its conglomerates.

At the base of the Bluff, the lowest bed of sandy elay includes many pebbles of the underlying basalt. In dune sandstone at Queenscliff (4) there were found *Arctocephalus williamsi* McCoy and *Phascolomys pliocenus* McCoy, and at Sorrento (5) *Palorchestes azael*, forms considered to be Pleistocene in age. If the bedded dunes of Barwon Heads are comparable in age with these, they may be regarded as Pleistoeene, but the unbedded dunes are of later date, probably sub-Recent.

A crust of travertine forms a few inches under the surface wherever the dune sands occur, and is particularly noticeable throughout the high land between Barwon Heads and the Great Salt Swamp, where it forms an impervious capping for the subartesian water.

The Ocean Grove sand spit has grown in a windward direction for about 2 miles towards the protecting Bluff, and constitutes a bay-mouth bar in the estuary of the Barwon.

RECENT SILT, SAND, SANDY CLAY, SHELL BEDS.

In addition to the Recent mollusca previously listed (1), the borings yielded certain foraminifera and bryozoa, which Messrs. W. J. Parr and L. W. Stach respectively kindly identified as follow:—

FORAMINIFERA.— Gyroidina glabrata Cush., Bolivinella folium P. &. J., Rotalia beccarii Linné. Quinqueloculina costata d'Orb., Discorbis margaritifera H. A. & E., D. disparalis, D. australensis H. A. & E., D. australis Parr, D. dimitiatus J. & P., D. opercularis d'Orb., D. patelliformis Brady, Elphidium macellum, F. & M., E. crispum Linné, E. advenum Cush., Trifarina bradyi Cush., Globigerina bulloides d'Orb., Planulina biconcava J. & P.

BRYOZOA.—Cornuticella cornuta Busk, Scuticella margaritacea Busk, Pterocella alata W. Th., Menipea crystallina Gray, Crisia acropora Busk, C. tenuis MacG., Vittaticella perforata Busk, V. elegans Busk, V. hannafordi MacG., V. umbonata Busk. All the above forms range from Pleistocene to Recent in age. and are marine in habitat, some exclusively so. This indicates that during siltation, salt water had access to the lake basins.

An estimate by the author of the total Recent sediment in the lake basins and marshes gives the volume as 9,500,000,000 cubic feet, and the weight as 250,000,000 tons. Practically all the inorganic material was transported by the Barwon River, and aquatic vegetation has become embedded in the silt deposited in the quieter portions of the lake. Along the river channel through the lake, fine sand is deposited, and this is also abundant near the lake mouth. Shell beds 3 or 4 feet in thickness occur in the Great Salt Swamp and on the northern bank of Reedy Lake, and are invariably underlain by yellow sandy clay.

The filling of the valley running between Reedy Lake and Stingarce Bay was not simply due to fluviatile deposition, as the highest part of its bed is at present 11 feet above water level. Probably beach ridges were formed by the wave action, in the manner Jutson (6) has described at Point Henry, and by a combination of the two processes, the valley was reclaimed from the sea. Marine shells and sandy clay are found in excavations along the valley.

Origin of the Lake.

Shortly after the uplift which closed the Lower Pliocene period, the coast between Torquay and Ocean Grove showed a large funnel-shaped bay, narrowing to a wide channel at its head running north to Corio Bay. The bay was shallow, and its bed was composed mainly of Lower Miocene clay, with some patches of Lower and possibly Upper Pliocene sediment.

Then in Upper Pliocene or Pleistocene times, the volcano of Mount Dunced became active, and extruded lava eastwards in a broad flood into the shallow bay. As the lava advanced into the water it divided into three tongues, which took different directions, the westerly travelling along the Tait's Point-Fisherman's Point ridge, the central one going north-east to the vicinity of the Pelican Rocks, and the larger southern flow travelling from Black Rocks to the Bluff. No faulting within the area covered by these flows occurred after their extrusion, as is evidenced by the fact that the slope of the basalt surface is very gradual and uniform towards the lake.

Lagoons were formed behind these lava barriers, and the waters of the Barwon were dammed back for some time. The site of the Reedy Lake marshes was probably a large freshwater lake, but the lagoons occupying the basins of Lake Connewarre and the Great Salt Swamp were partly open to the sea because the basalt did not quite reach the eastern shore. After a time, the Barwon cut through the basalt tongue between Tait's Point and Fisherman's Point to enter Lake Connewarre, leaving Bald Hill a hill of circumdenudation as a result of its trying several courses. Then the lava barrier at the Sheoak Point-Pelican Rocks tongue was cut through, and the river continued through the Great Salt Swamp basin to the sea between the Bluff and Ocean Grove, probably nearer to the latter than at present.

Siltation of the lake basins began immediately, being greatly assisted by the narrowness of the outlets, and also by flooding of the river At the same time, sand dunes began to pile up on the southern tongue along the coast from Torquay to Barwon Heads, and have continued to accumulate and rearrange themselves to the present day. At intervals, subaerial denudation resulted in the formation of thin beds of conglomerate at the Bluff. The seaward face of the dune at the Bluff has suffered considerable denudation by marine erosion.

The channel to the north of Reedy Lake was blocked by beach ridges at the Stingaree Bay end (Fig. 1B), and the whole of the basin became slowly silted by alluvium from the Barwon.

Salt water was never long absent from any of the basins formed by the basalt flows, therefore the fossil fauna is typically marine.

References.

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Appendix.

Logs of Bores.

Bore No.	Depth.	Authority.	Particulars.
	ft.		
1	18	A.C	Recent silt and sand 10', shell 1', clay 7'
2	15	A.C	Recent silt and sand 10', shell 1', clay 4'
3	18	A.C	Recent silt and sandy clay 18'
4	15	A.C.	Recent silt 12', sandy clay 3'
5	6	A C	Recent silt 5' sandy clay 1'
e e	51	C HT	Recent sand and silt 30' shally cand and day 6'
0	01	U.II.I	and alar b'
-	69	CILT	Poont and not wilt 59' shall and read 10'
4	00	SDWC	Pecent sand and shell
8	0	S.A.W.C	Decent sand and shell
9-14	14	S.R.W.C.	Recent sand and snell
15	12	S.R.W.C	Recent sand and shell
16	8	S.R.W.C	Recent sand and shell
17	14	S.R.W.O	Recent sand and shell
18	-10	S.R.W.C	Recent sand and shell
19 - 22	14	S.R.W.C	Recent sand and shell
23	14	S.R.W.C	Recent silt
24	7	S.R.W.C	Recent drift sand
25	12	S.R.W.C	Recent sandy clay
26 31	14	S.R.W.C	Recent silt
20 33	12	S.R.W.C.	Recent silt
21 25	14	SRWC	Recent silt
26	10	SRWC	Recent sand and shell
97	i Se	SRWC	Recent drift and
90	6	SPWC	Pogent drift sand
-00 -20	12	A. C.	Recent silt 19' sendy der 1'
	10	A.O	Recent silt 10' and 9'
40	<u>د ا</u>	$A.0, \dots$	Decent sitt 97 hugelt hettern
41	0 99	A.C	Weter 2' month il 21' hardt hatt
42	- 00 - 05		Water 2, recent sit of, basart bottom
43	20	Сил	Water 9' mount all 10' he alt 1 att
44	12	G.H.I.	Water 2, recent sht 10, basalt bottom
45	30	A.C	Water 4, recent sit 31, basalt bottom
46	19	A.C.	Water 2', recent silt 17', basalt bottom
47	$ \frac{17}{12} $	A.C	Water I', recent silt 16'
48	18	A.C	Water 2', recent silt 16'
49	17	A.C	Water 1', recent silt 16'
50	15	A.C	Water 2'. recent silt 13'
51	17	A.C	Recent silt 16', sandy clay 1'
52	15	A.C	Recent silt 14', sandy clay 1'
53	12	A.C	Recent silt 11', sandy clay 1'
54	6	A.C	Recent silt 5', sandy clay 1'
55	13	A.C	Recent silt 13'
56	20	A.C	Recent silt
57	27	A.C	Recent silt
58	28	A.C	Recent silt
59-60	35	A.C	Recent sand 34'. Miocene clay 1'
61	11	A.C.	Water 2', recent silt 9'
62	+	A.C.	Water 2', Miocene clay 2'
63	15	A.C.	Water 1', recent silt 14'
61	18	A.C.	Water 1' recent silt 17'
65	22	A.C.	Water 2' recent silt 20'
66	13	A C.	Water 1' recent silt 12' Miocana clay bettom
67-68		A C	Water I' recent silt 20'
69	20	A C	Regist silt 20
70	-0	A C	Recent silt 1' sandy clay 1'

Notes on Lake Connewarre.

Logs of Bores—continued.

Bore No.	Depth.	Authority.	Particulars.
	ft.		
71	19	A.C	Water 1', recent silt 18'
72	30	A.C	Recent silt and sand 29', Miocene clay 1'
73	20	A.C	Recent silt and sand
74	25	A.C	Recent silt and sand
75	20	A.C	Recent silt and sand
76	44	A.C	Recent sand
77	19	A.C	Water 2', recent silt 17'
78	40	A.C	Recent sand
79	10	A.C	Recent silt and sand 10', basalt bottom
80	2	A.C	Recent silt 2', basalt bottom
81	18	A.C	Recent silt
82	15	A.C	Recent silt and sand
83	26	A.C	Recent silt and sand
84	36	A.C	Recent silt and sand
85	23	A.C	Recent silt
86	15	A.C	Recent sand
87	14	A.C	Recent silt 14', basalt bottom
88	24	A.C	Recent silt and sand
89	10	A.C	Recent sand 10', basalt bottom
90	23	A.C	Recent silt and sand
91	5	A.C	Recent silt, shell and and 5', basalt bottom
92 - 3	10	A.C	Recent silt, shell, sandy clay
94	11	A.C	Recent silt, shell, sandy clay
95	9	A.C	Recent silt, shell, sandy cay
96	7	A.C	Recent silt, shell, sandy clay
97	4	A.C	Recent silt 4', basalt bottom
98	7	A.C	Recent silt 2', shell 1', sandy clay 4'
99	7	A.C	Recent silt, shell, sandy clay
100	6	A.C	Recent silt
101	9	A.C	Recent silt, shell, sandy clay
102	8	A.C	Recent silt, shell, sandy clay
103	10	A.C	Recent silt, shell, sandy clay
104	8	A.C	Recent silt
105	12	Well	Pleistocene dune sands
106 - 7	10	A.C	Recent silt 4', shell 2', sandy clay 4'
108	7	A.C	Recent silt 3', shell 2', sandy clay 2'
109	9	A.C	Recent silt, shell, silt
110	16	A.C	Recent silt 10', sandy clay 6'
111	17	A.C	Recent silt 10', sandy clay 7'
112	14	A.C.	Recent silt
113	15	A.C	Recent silt
114	14	A.C	Recent silt
115	17	A.C	Recent silt, sandy clay
116	6	A.C.	Recent silt 5, sandy clay 1
117	5	A.C.	Recent silt
118	10	A.C	Recent slit 9, sandy clay I
119	17	A.C.	Recent sht
120	15	A.C	Decent silt
121	14	A.C	Desent sond
122	12	A.C	Depart off
123	17	A.C	Desent silt headt better
124	10	A.C	Decent silt
120	15	A.C	Decent silt
126	12	A.U	Desent silt
127	10	A.C	Desent alt 4' andy alay 1'
128	6	A.U	Recent sno +, sandy clay 1

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LOGS OF BORES—continued.

Bore No.	Depth.	Authority.	Particulars.
	ft.		
129	6	A.C	Recent silt 5', sandy clay 1'
130 -	8	A.C	Recent silt 2', shell 1', sandy clay 1'
131	5	A.C	Water 1', recent silt 2', shell 1', sandy clay 1'
132	6	A.C	Water 1', recent silt 2', shell 1', sandy clay 2'
133	7	A.C	Water 1', recent silt 2', shell 2', sandy clay 2'
134	6	A.C	Water 1', recent silt 2', shell 2', sandy clay 1'
135	10	A.C	Recent silt 9', sandy clay 1'
136	6	A.H.G.C.	Pleistocene to recent dune sands
137	65	B.H.G.C.	Pleistocene to recent dune sands
138	64	Private	Basalt throughout
139	3	A.C.	Recent clay, basalt bottom
140	6	A.C.	Recent sand, shell
141	10	A.C.	Recent black silty clay
142	3	A.C	Recent black slity clay
143	10	A.U	Recent sand
144	14	G.W.S.T	Recent sand 5, sandy clay 12
140 7	14	G.W.S.T	Disist Recent clay
140-4	10	G.W.S.T	Plaist Recent cardy alay
140	15	GWST	· Plaist Becont candy day
150	330	Mines Dent	Soil 2' clay blue and vellow stiff 22' clay andy
		a waa	4', sand, fine 3', gravel, coarse 11', clay, sandy 3', clay, yellow 3', clay, sandy 3', clay, fos- siliferous, blue 287'
151	10	G.W.S.T.	Pleist.—Recent sandy clay
152	13	G.W.S.1	Marl with whele limestone 20' limestone hard
103	92	0.5.00	32', rubble 5', limestone, hard 6', hard stone (? basalt) 7', fine clay and sand 7', blue clay with fossils 5'
154	10	G.W.S.T	Pleistocene to recent clay
155	15	G.W.S.T	Basaltic clay
156	20	G.W.S.T	Basaltic clay, 20', basalt bottom
157	25	G.W.S.T	Recent clay, gravel
158	27	G.W.S.T.	Recent sand and clay, basalt bottom
159	24	G.W.S.T.	Recent sand and silt, basalt bottom
160	28	G.W.S.T	Recent clay and silt
S.B	W.C.	State Ri	vers and Water Supply Commission
G H T.		Geeloug	Harbour Trust.
B.H.G.C.		Barwon	Heads Golf Club
G.W.S.T.		Geelong	Waterworks and Sewerage Trust.
C.S.Co.		Cheetha	m Salt Coy., Bore 2, 1918.
Mines Dept		Moolap.	No. 1 Bore, 1927.
A.C.		Alan Cou	ulson.

PROC. R. S. VICTOBIA, 48 (1), 1935. PLATE I.



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